

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 21-23 were allowed, and claims 3-5, 16 were indicated as allowable. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 21-23 and indicating the allowability of claims 3-5 and 16. Claims 3 and 4 have been rewritten in independent form by including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, those claims should be in condition for allowance. Claim 5 has been amended to depend directly from claim 4 and also should be in condition for allowance. Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the language of independent claim 14 along with other amendments to render the language consistent with claim 14. It should be noted that the language of intervening claim 15 was not incorporated into claim 16, but this is not believed to affect the patentability of amended claim 16.

Furthermore, independent claims 1 and 14 had been amended, and claims 1-16 and 21-23 remain pending in the present application. All claim amendments are fully supported throughout the written description and figures of the specification.

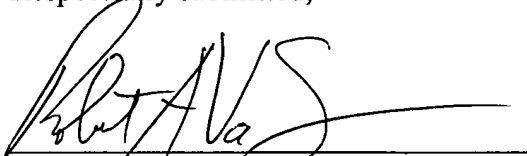
Claims 1-2 and 6-15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Ekstromer reference, US Patent No.: 1,960,484. (In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, allowed claims 21 and 23 were mistakenly listed as included in the rejected claims.) Independent claims 1 and 14 had been amended to clarify certain aspects of the invention and are patentable over the cited reference.

The Ekstromer reference discloses a motive power unit that can be assembled for use with reciprocating type well pumps. The motive power unit 16 comprises a plurality of individual fractional horsepower polyphase induction motors 17 of the squirrel cage type. The individual induction motors are connected by bolts 39 that pass through flanges on frames 22. Electrical connection is formed by plug receptacles 36 and 37 disposed upon the ends of frames 22, thus allowing the motors to be coupled together in any desired number. (Page 2, lines 43-128). The cited reference fails to disclose various elements of the pending claims.

For example, the reference does not disclose or suggest a plurality of stator sections with each stator section having an outer housing and "a plurality of laminations stacked and held within the outer housing" where the plurality of laminations have both a central and radially outlying openings that are aligned such that the radially outlying openings can receive "conductors extending generally longitudinally" therethrough, as recited in amended independent claim 1. Additionally, the cited reference does not disclose or suggest a submersible pumping system with a submersible electric motor having a plurality of modular motor sections in which each motor section comprises a "stator section, a housing section and at least one fluid passageway" to provide modular motor sections mechanically, electrically and fluidly coupleable, as recited in amended independent claim 14. Claims 2, 6-13 and 15 ultimately depend from either independent claim 1 or independent claim 14 and are patentable for the reasons provided above with respect to the independent claims as well as for the unique subject matter recited in each dependent claim.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the pending claims are believed patentable over the cited reference. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert A. Van Someren
Reg. No. 36,038

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PO Box 2107
Cypress, TX 77410-2107
Voice: (281) 373-4369